

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Weekly Report
September 3, 1999

Length of Stay after Admission for 72-Hour Hold

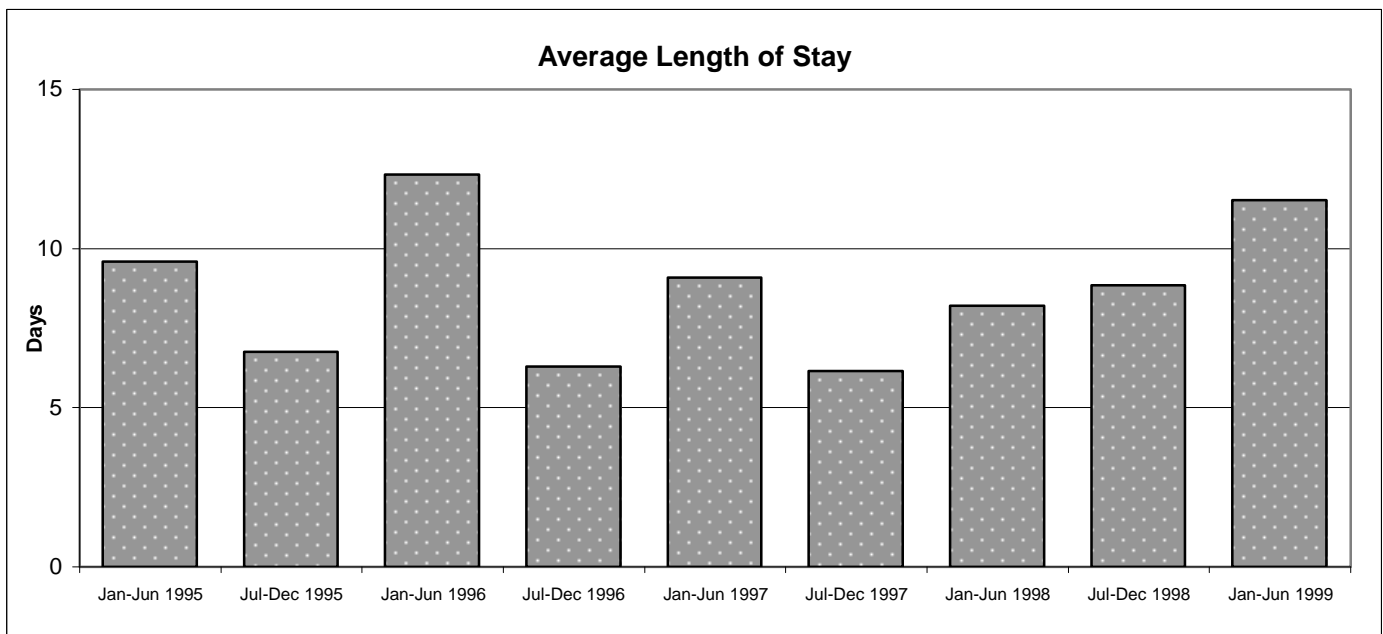
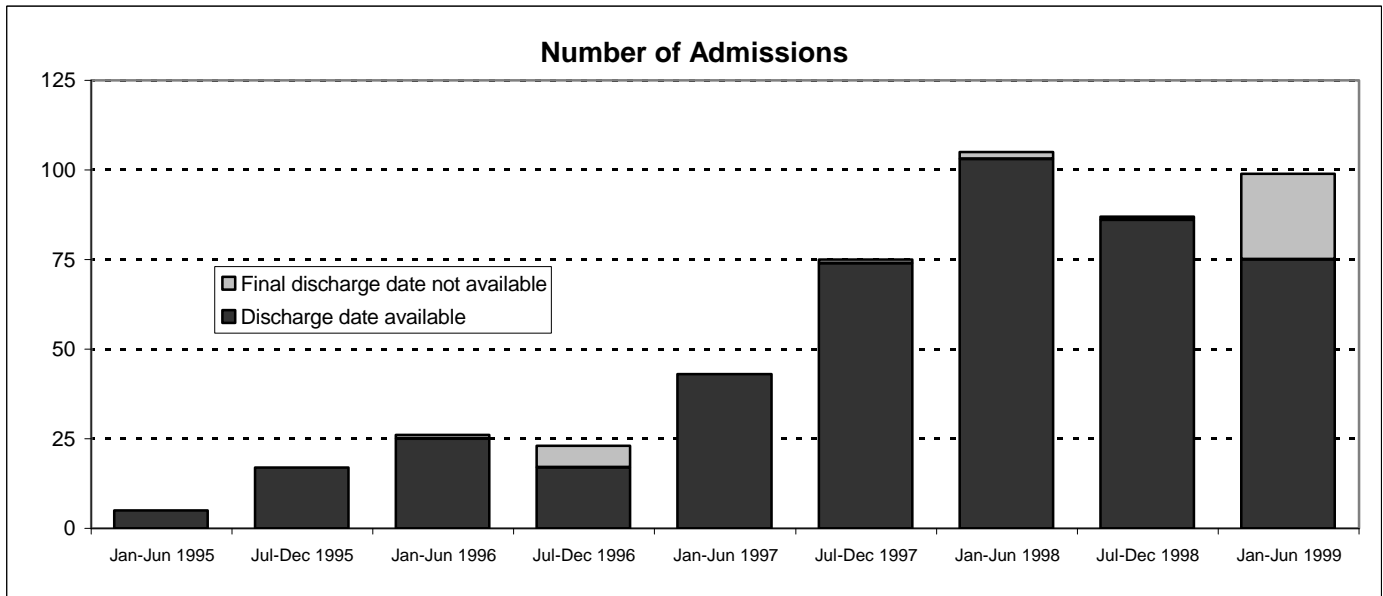
This week's PIP continues the examination of practice patterns in inpatient care that began last week. This week, we will examine information on the average length-of-stay of people who were admitted to general hospitals in Vermont under the state's "72-hour hold" authority. Information on the number of admissions to 72-hour hold and the average length-of-stay is provided for six month intervals since January 1995. Please note that the length-of-stay that is reported does not include time spent in the Vermont State Hospital by people who were transferred from the general hospital to the state hospital.

As you will see, there has been a fairly steady increase in the number of 72-hour hold admissions, from only 5 admissions during the first half of 1995 to more than 105 admissions during the first half of 1998 and 1999 admissions during the first half of 1999. During the earlier periods, the average length-of-stay for people admitted to 72-hour hold fluctuated substantially, probably due to the small number of admissions. Since the second half of 1997, however, there has been a steady increase in the average length-of-stay in general hospitals for people who had been admitted to 72-hour hold.

Last week's report on length-of-stay at the Vermont State Hospital elicited substantial interest. In response to this interest, we will present additional information on inpatient practice patterns over the next few weeks.

If you have any particular interests in this area, please let us know at 802-241-2639 or e-mail to jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us.

Length of Stay In General Hospitals for People Admitted For 72 Hour Hold



Number of Admissions	Jan-Jun 1995	Jul-Dec 1995	Jan-Jun 1996	Jul-Dec 1996	Jan-Jun 1997	Jul-Dec 1997	Jan-Jun 1998	Jul-Dec 1998	Jan-Jun 1999
Total Admissions	5	17	26	23	43	75	105	87	99
Missing Discharge Data	0	0	1	6	0	1	2	1	24
Complete Data	5	17	25	17	43	74	103	86	75

Average Length of Stay	Jan-Jun 1995	Jul-Dec 1995	Jan-Jun 1996	Jul-Dec 1996	Jan-Jun 1997	Jul-Dec 1997	Jan-Jun 1998	Jul-Dec 1998	Jan-Jun 1999
Average Length	9.6	6.8	12.3	6.3	9.1	6.1	8.2	8.8	11.5

Average length stay is calculated only for cases for which a final discharge date from the general hospital is available. Length of stay does not include DDMHS in VSH for cases transferred from 72 hour hold to VSH